

Message Text

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ACTION IO-03

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FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8860

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 3434

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UNSC, TU, GR

SUBJECT: GREEK/TURKISH CONVERSATION ON AEGEAN PROBLEMS

1. GREEK PERM REP PAPOULIAS TELEPHONED AMB BENNETT JUST AFTER LUNCH TO SAY FOREIGN MINISTERS BITSIOS AND CAGLAYANGIL HAD MET TOGETHER FOLLOWING SC MEETING AND THAT MEETING HAD GONE WELL. THE TWO FOREIGN MINISTERS, WHO WERE ACCOMPANIED BY THEIR STAFFS (PAPOULIAS WAS PRESENT), GREETED EACH OTHER WARMLY AND HAD IMMEDIATELY GOTTEN DOWN TO BUSINESS.

2. ON CAGLAYANGIL'S SUGGESTION, THEY HAD AGREED TO HAVE A FIRST SUBSTANTIVE MEETING TOGETHER IN GENEVA BETWEEN SEPTEMBER 10 AND 14. AS CONVERSATION DEVELOPED, THEY AGREED ON DESIRABILITY OF A SECOND MEETING IN NY WHILE THE TWO WOULD BE HERE IN CONNECTION WITH UNGA. SEPTEMBER 25 WAS TENTATIVELY SET FOR NY MEETING.

3. THERE WAS DISCUSSION AS TO AGENDA AND BITSIOS SUGGESTED THEY START WITH CONTINENTAL SHELF. THIS WAS AGREEABLE TO CAGLAYANGIL. TEZEL SUGGESTED THAT HE AND CARAYANNIS MIGHT MEET TOGETHER TO PREPARE THE GROUND AT THEIR LEVEL BEFORE FOREIGN MINISTERS' MEETING IN GENEVA.

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THIS WAS ACCEPTABLE TO BOTH SIDES, ALTHOUGH DATE AND PLACE

OF THAT MEETING WAS NOT FIXED TODAY.

4. PAPOULIAS REPORTED THAT AT ONE POINT BITSIOS HAD RAISED THE QUESTION OF "CERTAIN SCHEDULES", HAD SUGGESTED THE SENSITIVITY OF THE MATTER AND SUGGESTED THAT CHANGES THERE COULD BE HELPFUL IN THE GENERAL ATMOSPHERE FOR NEGOTIATIONS. ACCORDING TO PAPOULIAS, CAGLAYANGIL HAD GIVEN NO COMMITMENTS BUT HAD RESPONDED "IN AN UNDERSTANDING WAY".

COMMENT: IT MAY TURN OUT TURKS WILL HAVE A SOMEWHAT DIFFERENT VERSION OF THE MEETING. GREEKS ARE CLEARLY DELIGHTED, BOTH WITH THE OUTCOME IN THE SC AND WITH THIS FIRST CONVERSATION BETWEEN THE TWO FOREIGN MINISTERS. SCRANTON

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